



ONG Education et Développement

TERRE RICHE. ESPRIT PAUVRE

2022 *Activities report*

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Introduction

I- Activities of the Board of Directors

1- Review of the activities report for the year 2021

2- Financial report

II- Activities of the Executive Board

1- Aid to secondary schools (CEG)

A) CEG1 of Aplahoué

B) CEG of Kpodaha

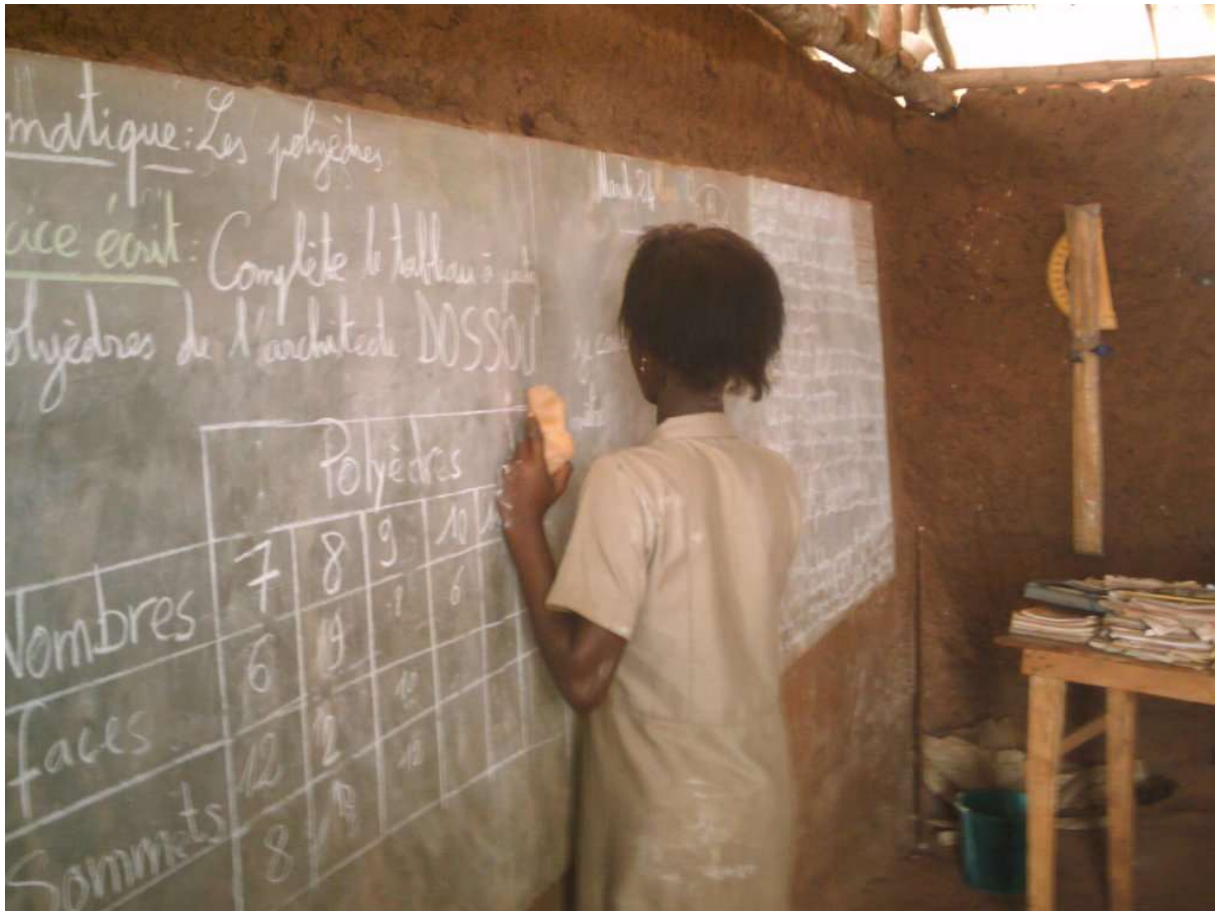
C) CEG of Glo

2- Assistance to public elementary schools

3- Assistance to other public elementary schools and the real reasons for financing their canteen.

III- Future projects

Conclusion



Let's also educate girls

Introduction

The NGO Education and Development (ONGED) was created by its founding members and all those who adhere to its statutes, in accordance with the law of July 1, 1901 on contracts of association and Decree No. 2001-234 of July 12, 2001 on the conditions and modalities of operation of non-governmental organizations and their umbrella organizations. Its registration number is: Receipt N° 3/009/PDM-C/SG/STCCD of February 16, 2007.

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As in previous years, ONGED worked for school children and students, thanks to the generosity of citizens of the United States of America contacted by Professor Lisa THOMPSON, who is always actively concerned about the future of young people and women in Africa in general and in Benin in particular. It is essentially with her help that ONGED has given money for the purchase of kitchen ingredients, refurbished or built kitchens, provided school uniforms and some school supplies to school children, provided water points and hand-washing facilities in schools or colleges. All this will be outlined in the form of a report on each microproject.

1 - Activities of the Board of Directors

On Saturday December 17, 2022, all the members of ONGED met in an ordinary General Assembly at its headquarters, Maison Houessilo Sodji in Kpodaha 1, Arrondissement of Ayomi, Commune of Dogbo, Department of Couffo, BENIN.

The agenda was:

- 1- Examination of the activities report for the year 2022,**
- 2-Financial report,**
- 3-Projects for the year 2023**

1- Review of the activities report for the year 2021

The Secretary General of ONGED presented the activities report for the year 2021. This report was unanimously approved by all the participants of this general assembly. It is essentially about our activities in schools and colleges.

2- Financial report

For the year 2022, the financial report of the NGO is summarized as follows

Income: 27.284.000 Francs (F),

Expenditure: 27.281.500 F,

Balance: 2,500 F.

As mentioned in the introduction, the funds used by the ONGED come from the contributions of its members, especially from the financial donations of Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her relatives and friends from the United States of America. In fact, it is Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her relatives in the United States of America who have contributed the most to the achievement of our objectives.

3- Projects for the year 2023

The projects for the year 2023 are merged with the future projects below.

II- Activities of the Executive Direction

Here are the activities of the ONGED :

In 2022, NGO Education and Development continued its efforts to improve access to healthy and nutritious food for children in some public elementary school in deprived areas of Benin.

With funding obtained from the United States by ONGED, three (3) collèges d'enseignement général (CEG) and eight (8) public elementary school in Benin have been assisted.

For example, all public elementary school were able to improve their school canteens by purchasing needed condiments and new kitchen equipment, and by training canteen staff in best culinary practices.

The meals served in these school canteens have now been enriched with vegetables and protein, which has helped improve the health and academic performance of the children.

ONGED has also organized awareness-raising workshops on the importance of healthy eating for children's health and development, as well as on how to cook nutritious meals in an economical and sustainable manner.

In addition to these school nutrition efforts, ONGED has also conducted other projects to improve education and development in rural communities in Benin.

Thus, the intervention of ONGED and the Americans have contributed to improving the health and education of students in rural elementary schools in Benin.

We are confident that these positive results will have a lasting impact on the lives of these youth and their communities.

We warmly thank Professor Lisa and all the donors who have made our microprojects possible.



Students using the hand wash station for their needs

1- Aid to secondary schools (CEG)

A) CEG1 of Aplahoué

Here are the projects carried out by ONGED at the Collège d'Enseignement Général N° 1 (CEG1) of Aplahoué, with the help of Professor Lisa THOMPSON. The projects include the construction of a water tower, a large hand wash basin with several faucets, the equipment and commissioning of a computer room, and the creation of a special canteen for exam candidates. These projects were implemented to improve the learning conditions to help students succeed in their exams and in their lives.

a) The Water Tower

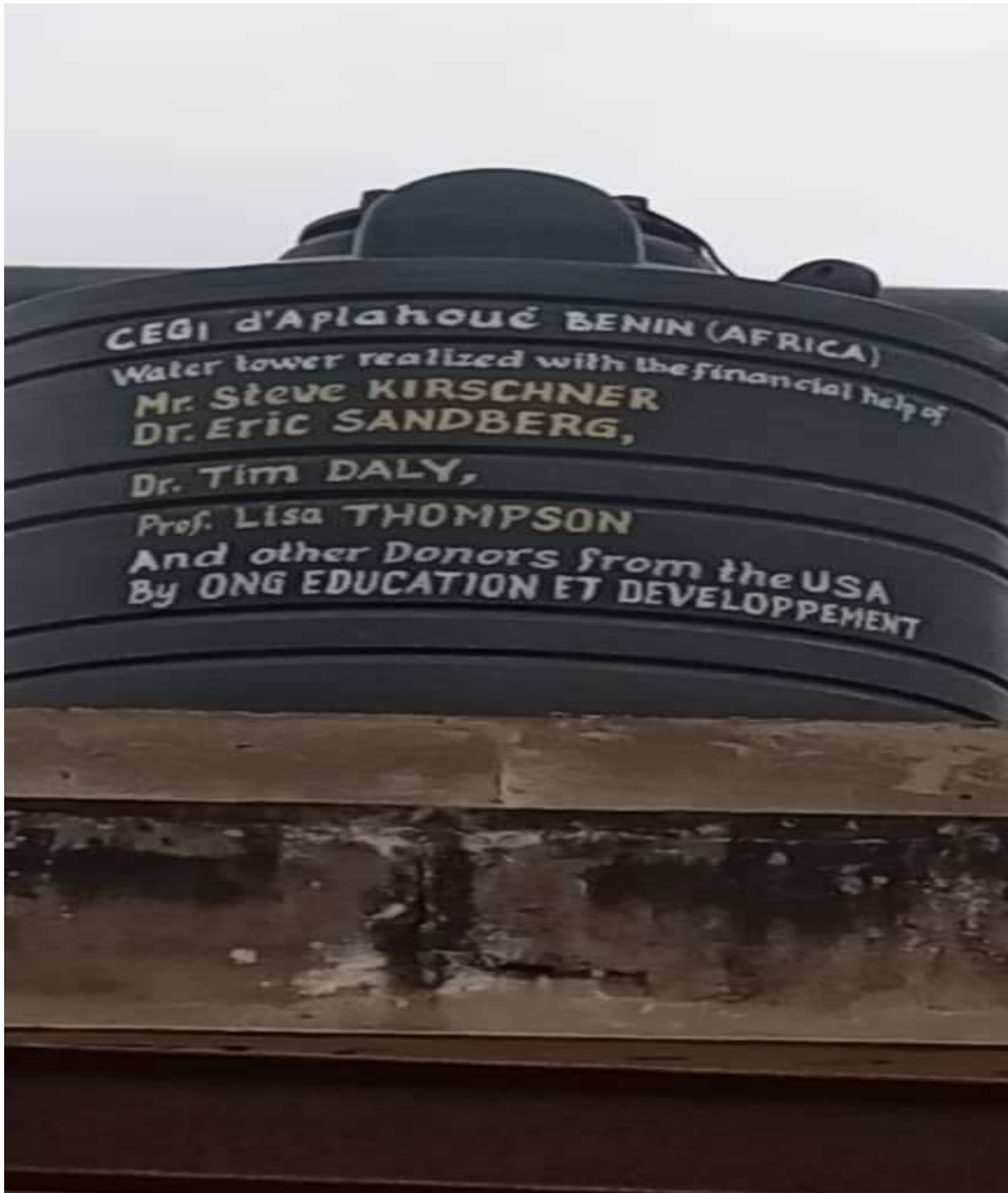
The project to build a water tower fed by a well at CEG1 in Aplahoué was implemented by ONGED. This project aimed at enabling CEG1 of Aplahoué to definitively overcome its water problems, as it had difficulties in paying its water bills and its taps had been closed, causing serious problems to the many students who attend it.



Technicians at work on the water tower

The project included the construction of a water tower fed by a well, with a solar powered water pump. This system was designed to improve the drinking water supply of the CEG by using a sustainable and ecological water source. The water tower includes a large water storage tank, a filtration system and a distribution system to supply all the taps of this CEG. Solar panels were installed to provide energy for the water pump.

It is understood that the construction of this water tower was undertaken to improve the supply of drinking water to this large college of departmental scope where almost all competitions, major official examinations, etc. are held.



Large tank on building slab

The construction of the water tower and the installation of the solar panels started in September 2022 and was completed in November of the same year. It was completed on time and according to the approved plans and specifications. The facility

was tested and commissioned after construction was completed. Since then, there have been no problems related to the supply of drinking water in CEG1 of Aplahoué.



Solar panels for the water tower



The 2500 liter tank

The construction of this well-fed water tower has had a significant impact on CEG1 of Aplahoué. Access to drinking water has been greatly improved, allowing students to wash their hands safely, and for this reason, through ONGED, Professor Lisa THOMPSON has planned the construction of a hand-washing station for them. In addition, CEG1 of Aplahoué was able to restore its taps and will no longer have to pay water bills, thus avoiding any interruption in water supply.



Drinking water finally flows



Water comes out of all the taps

Students and staff have also reported an improvement in the overall hygiene of the CEG since the water tower was installed. By using solar energy to power the water pump, this project also contributes to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions because a gasoline (or diesel) powered generator, for example, was not chosen to provide electrical power. Finally, the use of a sustainable water source with the well is a way to guarantee a long-term water resource for the CEG.

b) The hand wash basin

The goal of this project was to provide students with a place where they could wash their hands before and after meals, as well as after sports activities and toilets, in order to prevent diseases such as COVID-19, cholera and other hygiene-related diseases.



Students using water before the completion of the hand wash

The hand-washing station built at CEG1 in Aplahoué is equipped with liquid soap, sinks and several taps on each side. It also has an adequate drainage system to avoid flooding. It is adapted to the needs of the students and is easy for them to use.

The construction of the hand wash basin was carried out by a team of qualified and experienced professionals. The architectural plan was designed with the assistance of the Director of CEG1 of Aplahoué. The first step consisted in delimiting the location of the hand-washing station and establishing the plans. Then, earthworks were undertaken to prepare the ground. The foundations were poured and the reinforced concrete structure was erected. The plumbing and sanitary equipment were installed. Finally, the interior and exterior finishing was done to give an aesthetic aspect.

c) The computer room

The project of equipping a computer room for the students of the Collège d'Enseignement Général 1 (CEG1) of Aplahoué, has been successfully completed thanks to donations from Professor Lisa THOMPSON.



Computer room (or Salle informatique) at CEG1 in Aplahoué



Set of computer materials donated by Professor Lisa THOMPSON



Names of donors written on the wall to thank them



Part of the computer equipment by Prof. Lisa THOMPSON

The computer room is equipped with 21 computers and a printer. The desktop computers and desks were furnished by Professor Lisa THOMPSON, however, they could not be used because the CEG lacked the funding to properly ventilate the classroom and connect to the Internet.



Refurbishing of computers

The opening of the computer lab was well received by the students and staff of the secondary school, who were grateful for the ability to develop technological skills and have access to a digital library for research.

In summary, the commissioning of all the computers in the computer room for CEG1 in Aplahoué was a successful project.

d) Canteen during exams

The Collège d'Enseignement Général N° 1 (CEG1) of Aplahoué offers a canteen to candidates during the BEPC and Baccalauréat exams. This canteen is financed by Professor Lisa THOMPSON and managed by the ONGED.

According to information gathered from several candidates, the canteen offers balanced and nutritious meals that include meat or fish and rice or pasta.

In general, candidates are satisfied with the canteen and appreciate the fact that it is accessible and affordable at a time when the entire regional community is often experiencing food crises. Many candidates stated that the canteen allowed them to focus on their exams without worrying about their food.

Overall, the projects carried out by ONGED at CEG1 in Aplahoué have had many positive impacts including improved access to drinking water, better health and student hygiene, access to information technology and attention to student nutrition which have contributed to creating a favorable environment for learning and exam success.

B) CEG of Kpodaha

The construction project of the façade of the Collège d'Enseignement Général (CEG) of Kpodaha has been partially completed, with the installation of a plaque bearing the name and address of the college.



CEG of Kpodaha (Dogbo-Benin)

The plaque was made of stainless steel and is fixed on the façade of the main building of the college. It is visible from a distance and allows visitors and students to easily find the college.



Partial view of the plaque indicating the name of the CEG

The project was funded by donations from Professor Lisa THOMPSON. The work to install the plaque was done by a local company specializing in this type of work.



The plaque indicating the location of the CEG of Kpodaha

Unfortunately, the façade construction project could not be completed at this time due to lack of funds. Nevertheless, the installation of the plaque was well received by the students and staff of the college, who expressed their appreciation for this improvement.

C) CEG de Glo

For some time, the library of the CEG of Glo has been facing a lack of shelves. This situation has a negative impact on the organization and storage of books, making it difficult for students and staff to access documents. In other words, it is this situation that has resulted in materials being deposited on the floor or stacked on tables, which is not ideal for their preservation nor for the convenience of the students and staff who use the library.



Library lacking appropriate shelving

Fortunately, thanks to donations received from Professor Lisa THOMPSON, we have been able to undertake the construction of

some shelves to improve the situation. The shelving project was initiated by Professor Jean HOUNKPE, an executive who has only one concern: the development of his locality. Although this initiative has solved the problem a little, there is still a lot to do to fully meet the needs of the library.



Library lacking appropriate tables

We hope to be able to raise enough funds to be able to build all the shelves needed to offer a quality service to the users of this CEG. We are convinced that this investment will have a positive impact on the learning and education of the students of this CEG.

2- Assistance to public elementary schools

A) Solouhoué Public Primary School



In the background are the ravaged classrooms

The unexpected project of building a large open classroom block to house three classrooms at the public elementary school of Solouhoué was carried out urgently on the very first day of school when it was discovered that several classrooms had been severely damaged by termites and flooding.



A public school teacher builds classrooms in Solouhoué



Indeed, on the first day of school, teachers were outside gathering sticks and grasses to hastily rebuild a makeshift structure. Faced with this scene that calls for urgent action, ONGED immediately released funds so that the work could be done by professionals.



Classrooms built by ONGED and its USA financiers

Three new classrooms were built using local building materials such as wooden poles and sheet metal.

The Honorable Benoît SAKOU and Mr. Marcelin SAKOU, Chief of Kpodaha Village, also contributed. Thanks to their donations, the construction work was carried out by a team of local volunteers, who worked day and night to complete the structure in time for the start of the school year.



As soon as they are built, the rooms are occupied for teaching

This covered classroom space will provide shelter for the students and staff while they await the construction of a more permanent three-classroom module by the political-administrative authorities of the Commune of Dogbo.

B) Kpodaha Public Primary School

The project of donation of mathematical instruments to the students in exam class at the public school complex of Kpodaha by ONGED with the help of Professor Lisa THOMPSON was a success.

a) Mathematics kits

The mathematical instruments included compasses, squares, rulers, sharpeners, pencils, pens, erasers. They were given to the students in the exam class to help them better understand and master the mathematical concepts.



A set of mathematical tools

The donation was well received by the students and staff of the Kpodaha school complex, who expressed their gratitude for this valuable assistance.

b) Cooking utensils



Parents holding the thank-you banner

The project to donate large aluminum pots and ladles for the school canteen of the Kpodaha public school complex was a great success.



Kitchen utensils and mathematics instruments

The large pans and ladles were donated to the school to replace those that were rented from individuals. This allowed the school to save money by not paying rental fees for these kitchen utensils needed for the canteen.

The realization of this project was financed by the generous Professor Lisa THOMPSON. The utensils were purchased from a company specialized in this type of equipment. The utensils bear the initial letters "ONGED".

The donation was well received by the students and staff of the school, who expressed their gratitude for this valuable help. The school canteen now has quality kitchen equipment and no longer relies too much on private help for its cooking activities.

c) The kitchen



A kitchen that does not meet school canteen standards

The project to build a kitchen for the Kpodaha school complex was designed to meet government health and safety standards, as well as to meet the needs of the students. The kitchen measures 4m x 8m, or 32 m², and was built by ONGED with funding from Professor Lisa THOMPSON and friends from the United States of America.



Kitchen under construction

The work included the construction of reinforced concrete pillars to ensure durability and the possibility of modifying the kitchen in the future. The kitchen still needs to be equipped with improved fireplaces that use less fuel (bundles of wood) to preserve the vegetation cover and the climate.



New kitchen built next to the old one

We are pleased to report that this project to build a kitchen for the Kpodaha school complex has been successfully completed. We hope that this functional kitchen will be appreciated and well used at the Kpodaha school complex. We would like to thank all the donors for their financial support.

C) Akahoué Public Primary School

ONGED carried out activities at Akahoué Public Primary School, thanks to funding from Professor Lisa Thompson. The activities included payment of unpaid water bills and the cost of repairing water pipes and faucets, as well as contributing to the improvement of the school canteen meals and the donation of school uniforms to some students.

a) Water problems

There are arrears of water bills to pay as well as repair costs for spoiled water pipes and faucets that need to be settled. In one word, at Akahoué school, there is no more water. This is because these problems impact on the school's water supply, causing disruptions in the daily activities of the school, such as cooking in the school canteen and hand washing. It is important to find quick solutions to address these issues to ensure a stable water supply at the school.

The repair work was carried out by the communal cell that supplies the water.

This payment of the water bill arrears and the repair costs were welcomed by the students and the school staff, who showed their gratitude for the improvement of their living and working conditions. The school now has a clean water supply. And this

will facilitate the use of water in the kitchen for the school canteen and others.

In summary, the project to pay the water bill arrears and the cost of repairing the water pipes and the spoiled taps at Akahoué school has been successfully completed.

b) Canteen and school clothes

ONGED contributed to the improvement of the school canteen meals by purchasing the necessary condiments, as the government did not provide all the ingredients. This allowed the students to have a complete and balanced meal, improving their well-being and school performance.



Ecoliers de l'EPP d'Akhoué se restaurent

In addition, not all students are able to contribute the 25 francs required to purchase the condiments that will improve the meals in their canteen. This can cause difficulties for students who depend on the canteen for their food, and it is important to find solutions to solve this problem.

While the school canteen problem was being solved, the Director revealed to ONGED that some students could not attend school because of the lack of school clothes. ONGED promptly ordered and donated school uniforms to those few students who needed them. However, it is important to continue to find solutions to ensure that all students can afford school uniforms so that they can attend school and continue their education safely.

Thus, ONGED's activities at Akahoué Public Primary School have had a significant impact on the students' study conditions. The payment of water bills, the contribution to the improvement of the school canteen meals, and the donation of school uniforms have all contributed to improving the well-being and prospects of the school children. We are grateful to Professor Lisa Thompson for her funding that made these achievements possible and we will continue to work to support the students of Akahoué Public Primary School.

D) Other public elementary school and the real reasons for financing their canteens.

In order to understand the priorities of the ONG, we must remember what the authorities say. They officially state that:

"School canteens are one of the means to attract children to school, to keep them there and to contribute to the improvement of school results, thus to the achievement of the goals of Education For All (EFA)." (Cf. Minutes of the Council of Ministers of July 19, 2017).



At the EPP of Tangbo-Do (Zè), schoolchildren enjoy the food

It is in this spirit that, supported by Professor Lisa THOMPSON and her parents and friends from the United States of America, ONGED is beginning to help the most disadvantaged public elementary schools in certain remote regions of Benin.

In short, Professor Lisa THOMPSON supports the political-administrative authorities of Benin and contributes to the well-being of the Beninese people through the ONGED.



Lokogba schoolkids present condiments and thank Prof. Lisa THOMPSON

We also intervened in the public elementary school of Séguémey, Tangbo-Do, Lokogba, Migbowomey (or Bébéhoué) and Tchêkêhoué.

In these schools, ONGED provided assistance for the purchase of ingredients. Everything was done as usual as elsewhere where money is given for the purchase of what is missing for the seasoning of meals.

ONGED thanks the generous Americans, namely Professor Lisa THOMPSON, who have supported and financed its activities in favor of the poorest.

III- Future project

In 2023, depending on the needs of the schools, women and youth, we will continue to provide assistance. For example, we will try to provide water and hand washing facilities to the schools. We plan to train women and others to build improved fireplaces that use less wood to preserve the vegetation cover and the climate. This will be economical and vital.

ONGED is planning to revive the traditional medicine to which the rural population is accustomed. There will be a center for research and application of this natural medicine which is within the reach of everyone in the deprived regions.

In addition, women will be supported in their income generating activities. The young people present us with animal breeding projects. There is another group of young people who want to engage in the preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change. They want us to ask our partners to buy them a machine that will allow them to recycle plastic objects.

Conclusion

In summary, ONGED has continued to support school children and students thanks to the generosity of American citizens contacted by Professor Lisa THOMPSON, who is actively involved in improving the bright future of youth and women in Africa. Through her efforts, ONGED has been able to fund the purchase of ingredients for school canteens, repair or build kitchens, provide clothing and school supplies, as well as water points and sinks in the schools and colleges where she has intervened as indicated by the results of each microproject.